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THE HEDGEHOG
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In SERVICE to the KING
Part Two
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SPECIAL THANKS TO CINDY CHAU AND JERRY CHU AT SEGA LICENSING
THE SPECIAL ZONE...
NRRGH!
SHOT IN THE BACK --BY GEOFFREY?! WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS HE THINKING?!
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG
HERO OF MOBIUS
IXIS NAUGUS
FALLEN DARK WIZARD
MAMMOTH MOGUL
RETIRED VILLAIN
GEOFFREY ST. JOHN
HERO? VILLAIN?

THEN THE JERK BOOTS ME INTO...THIS, CLASSY.
AND YOU JUST STOOD THERE AND WATCHED!
FEIST FOUND IT AMUSING.
EVERY-THING IN THE SPECIAL ZONE...
...IS FOR FEIST'S AMUSE-MENT.
...AND HOW DO I GET OUT OF HERE?
YEAH, WELL, FEIST NEEDS TO FIND A BETTER SENSE OF HUMOR...AND SOME PERSONAL PRONOUNS...
WE CAME HERE PRE-TENDING TO HELP SENILE OLD MAX,* BUT I REALLY DOUBT GEOFFREY IS ACTUALLY GRABBING THE CHAOS EMERALD FOR THE OLD MAN. SO WHAT THE HECK IS HE REALLY UP TO?
*SEE LAST ISSUE.

CASINO NIGHT CLUB...
YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE MY CAUTION, COMMANDER ST. JOHN.
IT'S NOT OFTEN A SECRET AGENT OF MY HATED ENEMIES COMES TO MY PLACE OF BUSINESS, HARASSES MY STAFF, AND BRANDISHES A GEMSTONE OF UNFATHOMABLE POWER.
YOU SAID ALL THAT IN ONE BREATH. YOU REALLY ARE A TALKER.
DO NOT BORE ME WITH PETTY INSULTS.
AND YOU ARE MISTAKEN IF YOU BELIEVE YOU CAN WOO ME WITH YET ANOTHER CHAOS EMERALD.
THE EMERALD ISN'T FOR YOU, MOGUL, NOR IS IT FOR SALE.
IT IS TO RESTORE IXIS NAUGUS TO HIS FORMER GLORY.

RESTORE THE LAST OF MY OLD ORDER SO HE MIGHT CHALLENGE ME? LOSE MY DELIGHTFULLY GRUESOME PET? I THINK NOT.
EVEN WITH AN EMERALD, NAUGUS WOULDN'T BE A THREAT TO YOU.
YOU'VE ALREADY PROVED YOU'RE IN A LEAGUE OF YOUR OWN.*
*SEE THE THROW-DOWN IN STH. # 163-164.
AND WHILE YOU'D LOSE A PET, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS WOULD GET A MAJOR UPHEAVAL. THE UNHAPPY PEOPLE WOULD NEED A RESORT LIKE YOURS TO ESCAPE THEIR TROUBLES, BRINGING YOU BUSINESS...
...AND I GUARANTEE COMPLETING MY MISSION WILL MAKE SONIC MISERABLE.
AND THERE YOU HAVE SOLD ME, MY GOOD MAN. NAUGUS IS ALL YOURS.

EASY, THERE... I'M NOT EVEN SURE THIS WILL WORK--

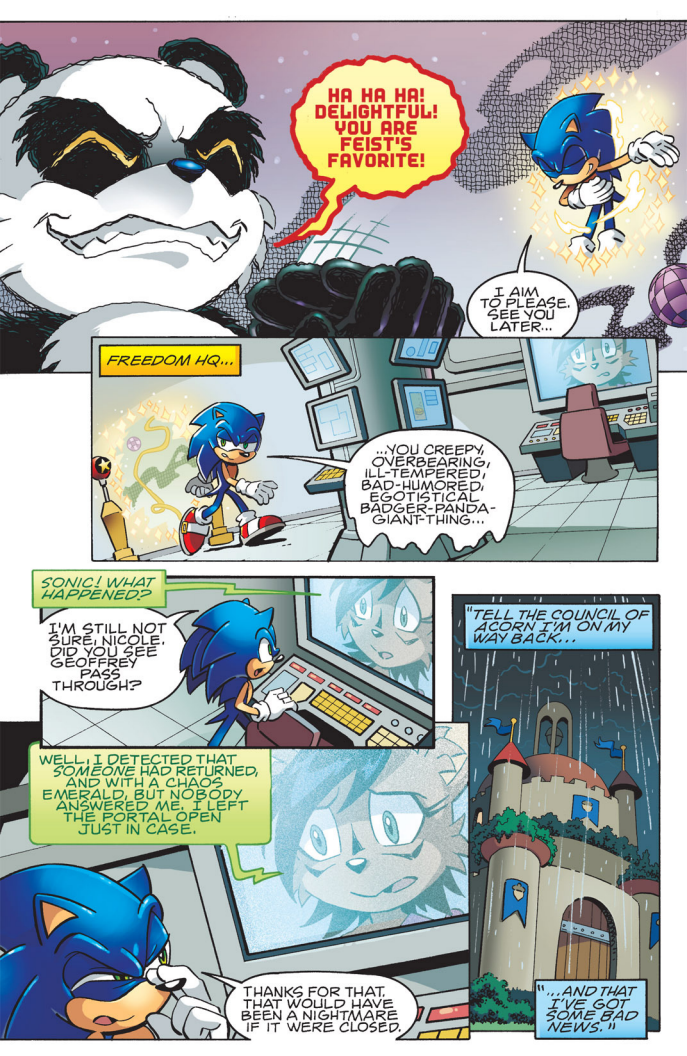
LET NO JOYFUL VOICE BE HEARD! LET NO ONE LOOK TO THE SKY WITH HOPE! AND LET THIS DAY BE CURSED FOR THOSE WHO WITNESS THE RETURN OF...
...IXIS NAUGUS !!!
EXCELLENT RETURN TO FORM, SIR!
YOU!! LONG HAVE I SUFFERED INDIGNITY AT YOUR HANDS! TRAPPED IN A BROKEN MIND! TREATED AS AN ANIMAL! YOU HAVE *MUCH* TO ANSWER FOR!
YOU MISERABLE, WRETCHED *FAILURE* !!!
GAK!
MASTER!
YOU ARE STILL RECOVERING, AND THERE IS *MUCH* WE NEED TO REVIEW. WE SHOULD FALL BACK FOR NOW.

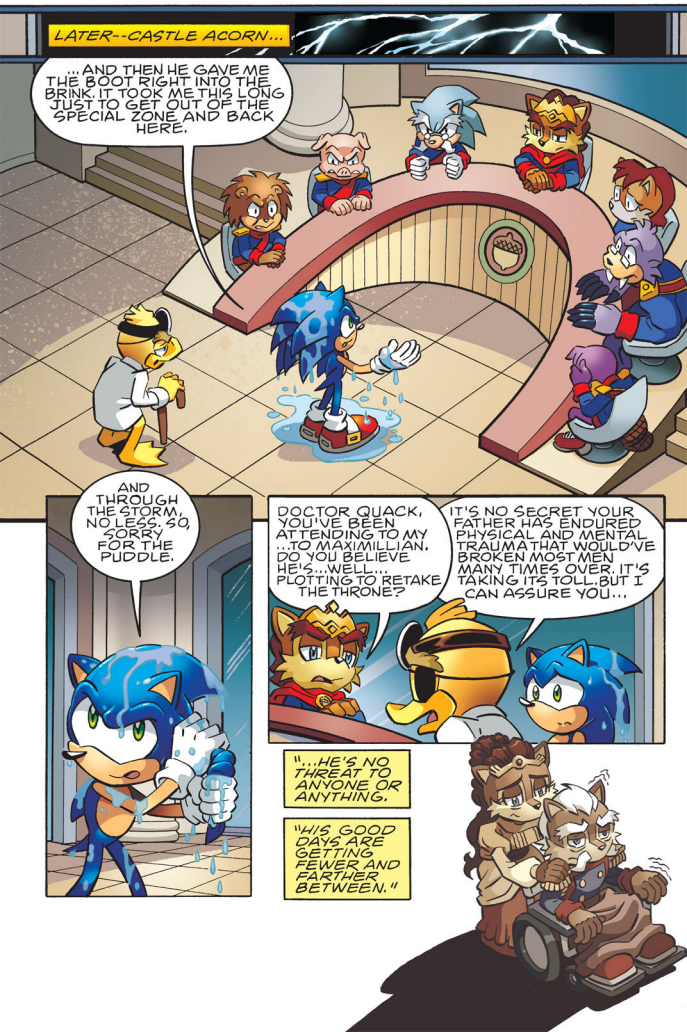
"PREPARE FOR MY RETURN," I SAID!
"ENSURE THE KINGDOM STANDS," I SAID!
"REMOVE THE ACORN," I SAID!!!
-KOFF!- -KOFF!- TH-THERE'S STILL A KINGDOM OF SORTS, AND THERE'S STILL A "MOBO-TROPOLIS" FOR YOU TO RULE!
-KOFF!- AND THE ACORN FAMILY WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN STABILITY! I DID THE BEST I COULD! AND IF YOU WANT TO STAND A CHANCE OF TAKING YOUR THRONE BACK, YOU NEED ME!
I'VE BEEN ACTIVE ALL THE TIME YOU'VE SPENT IMPRISONED OR DISABLED. AND UNLIKE YOU, SIR, I HAVE TACT. BRUTE MAGICAL FORCE WON'T WORK FOR WHAT YOU WANT.
BAH! WHAT NEED DO I HAVE FOR YOU?

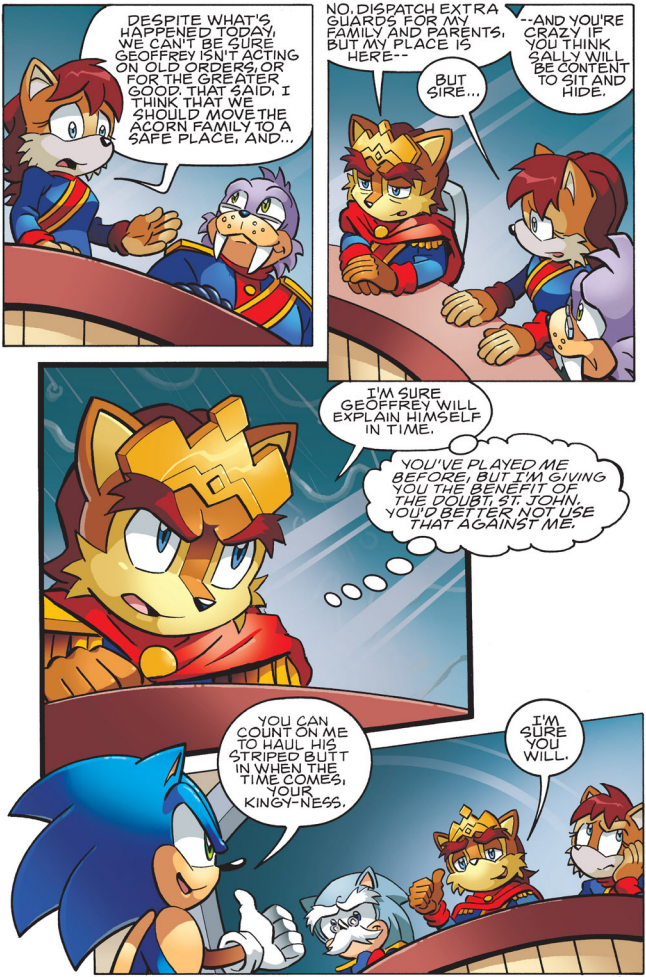
AND HE BROUGHT YOU A CHAOS EMERALD. I SHOULD THINK THAT WOULD COUNT FOR SOMETHING.
RIGHT! THAT TOO!
I'M NOT TALKING TO YOU, MOGUL.
DO NOT MISTAKE MY SUPPORT FOR CHARITY. YOU'VE PROMISED ME A REVOLUTION, AND I EXPECT THIS INVESTMENT TO PAY OFF.
YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU WANT ONCE MY MASTER IS PROVEN THE RIGHTFUL KING OF MOBOTROPOLIS.
MOGUL..WE WILL HAVE OUR RECKONING.
ONE DAY. BUT NOT NOW.
BAH. COME, APPRENTICE WE MUST PREPARE TO DEAL WITH THE QUICKSTER.
SONIC? I SHOT HIM IN THE BACK.
BWAHAHAHAHAA!
WHHHA HA HA! THAT ALONE EARNS YOU A REPRIEVE!
THANK YOU, SIR.

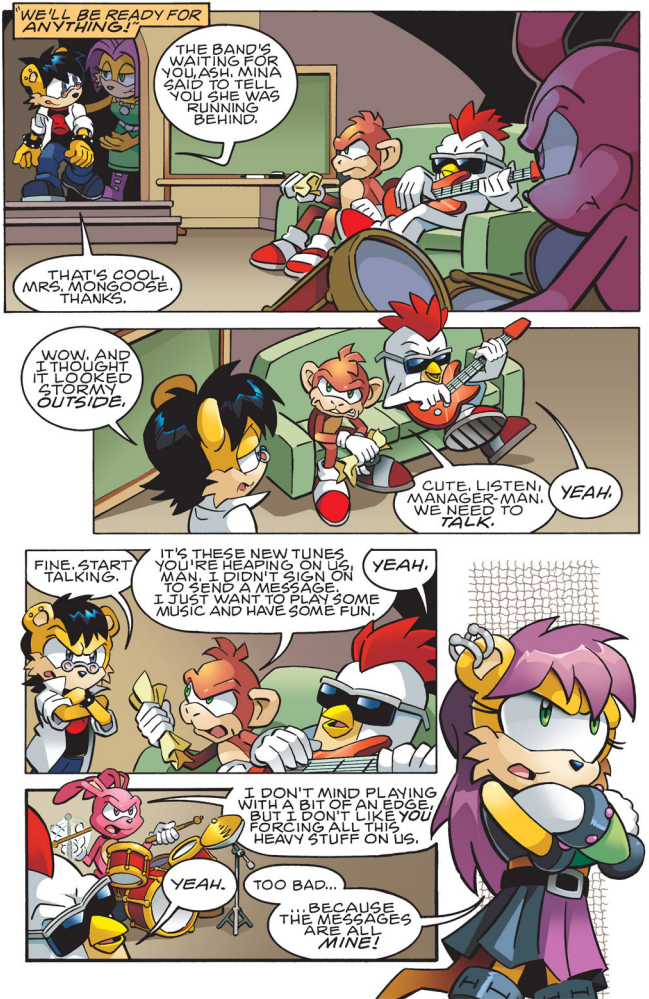
"WHAT BECAME OF THE QUICK-STER AFTER YOU SHOT HIM?"
ALL YOU DO IS FALL. THIS BORES FEIST.
THERE'S NOT MUCH I CAN DO, BIG GUY. YOU'RE THE ONE WITH GODLIKE POWERS. YOU DO SOME-THING.
VERY WELL! DISPLAY YOUR SKILLS TO FEIST, AND YOU WILL FIND YOUR WAY HOME!
NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

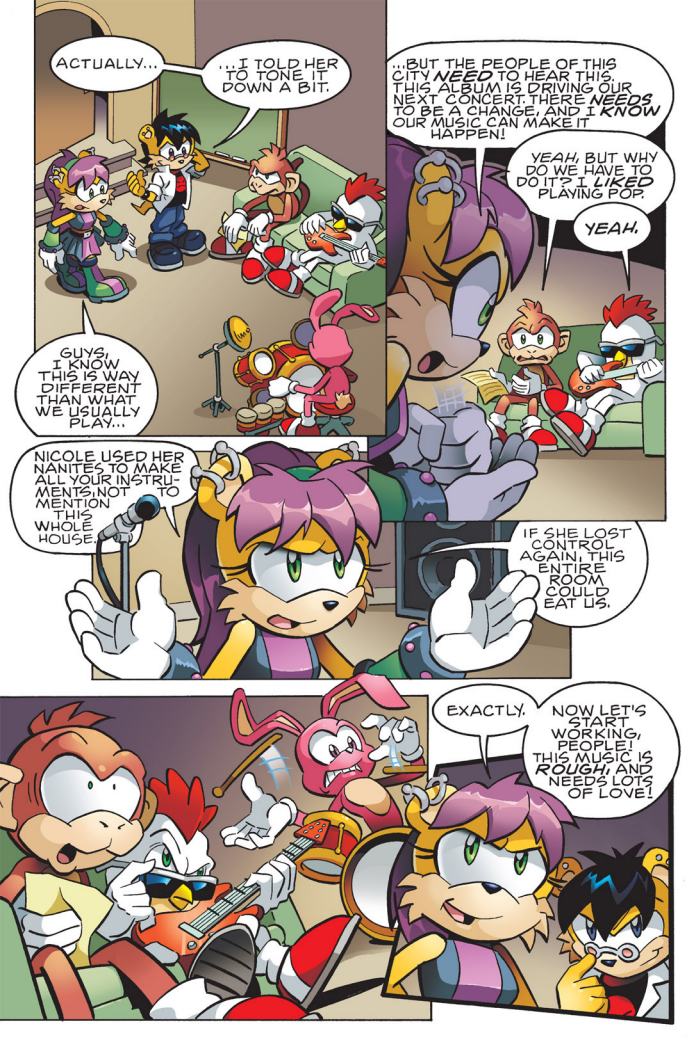
WOO!
BWONK
BWONK
BWONK
BWONK
BWONK
SO CLOSE! WILL YOU FALL BACK INTO THE VOID?
BWONK
I'VE HAD ABOUT ALL THE FUN I CAN STAND HERE TODAY!

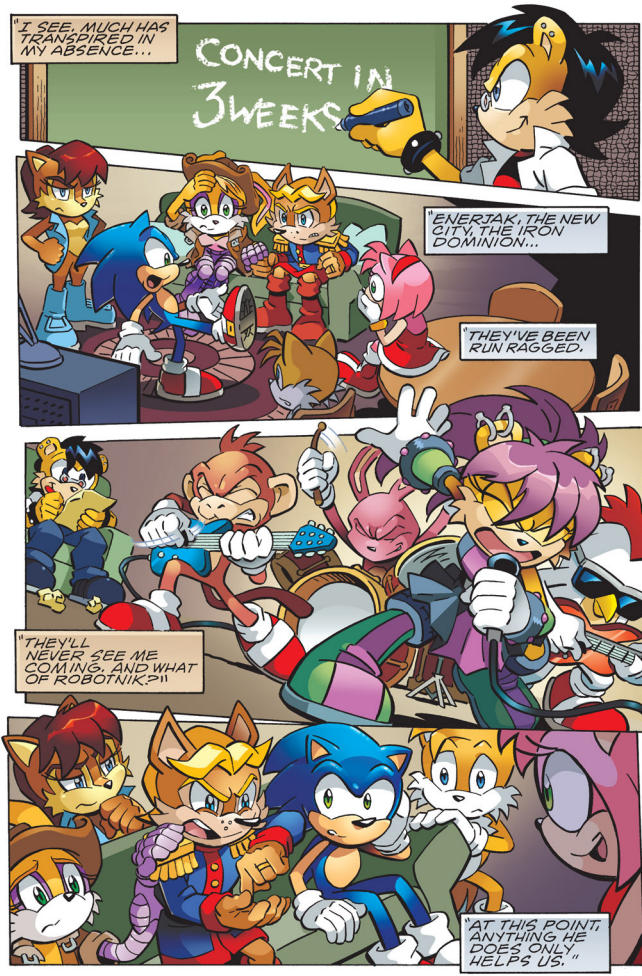

HA HA HA! DELIGHTFUL! YOU ARE FEIST'S FAVORITE!
I AIM TO PLEASE. SEE YOU LATER...
FREEDOM HQ...
...YOU CREEPY, OVERBEARING, ILL-TEMPERED, BAD-HUMORED, EGOTISTICAL BADGER-PANDA-GIANT-THING...
SONIC! WHAT HAPPENED?
I'M STILL NOT SURE, NICOLE. DID YOU SEE GEOFFREY PASS THROUGH?
WELL, I DETECTED THAT SOMEONE HAD RETURNED, AND WITH A CHAOS EMERALD, BUT NOBODY ANSWERED ME, I LEFT THE PORTAL OPEN JUST IN CASE.
THANKS FOR THAT. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN A NIGHTMARE IF IT WERE CLOSED.
"TELL THE COUNCIL OF ACORN I'M ON MY WAY BACK...
"...AND THAT I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS."

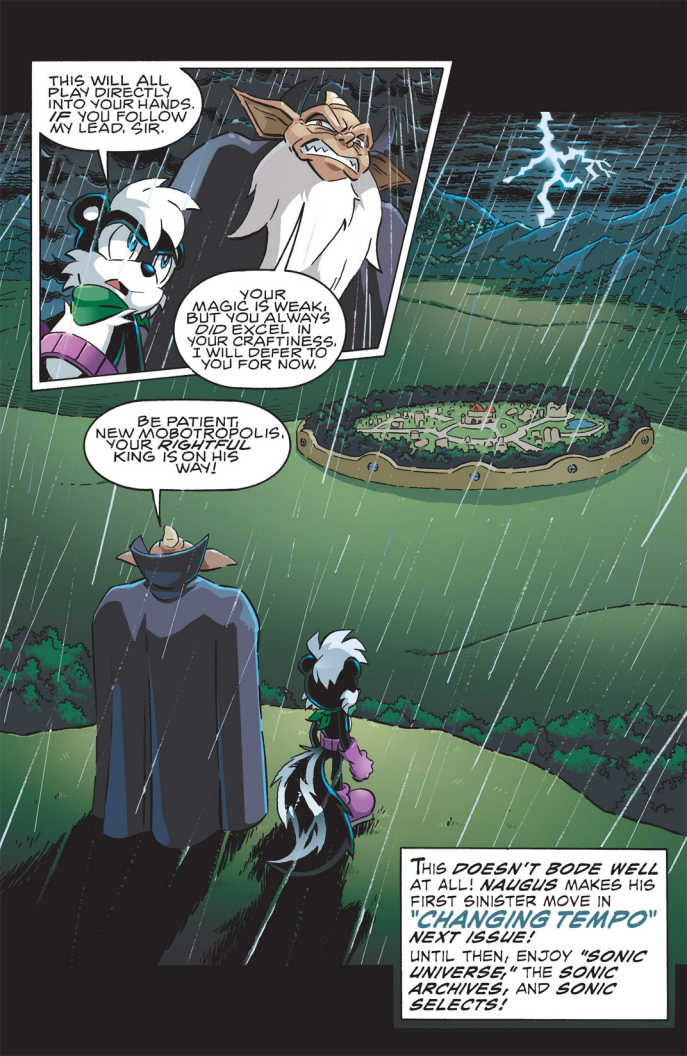

LATER--CASTLE ACORN...
...AND THEN HE GAVE ME THE BOOT RIGHT INTO THE BRINK. IT TOOK ME THIS LONG JUST TO GET OUT OF THE SPECIAL ZONE AND BACK HERE.
AND THROUGH THE STORM, NO LESS. SO, SORRY FOR THE PUDDLE.
DOCTOR QUACK, YOU'VE BEEN ATTENDING TO MY ...TO MAXIMILLIAN. DO YOU BELIEVE HE'S...WELL... PLOTTING TO RETAKE THE THRONE?
IT'S NO SECRET YOUR FATHER HAS ENDURED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRAUMA THAT WOULD'VE BROKEN MOST MEN MANY TIMES OVER. IT'S TAKING ITS TOLL, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU...
"...HE'S NO THREAT TO ANYONE OR ANYTHING.
"HIS GOOD DAYS ARE GETTING FEWER AND FARTHER BETWEEN."


DESPITE WHAT'S HAPPENED TODAY, WE CAN'T BE SURE GEOFFREY ISN'T ACTING ON OLD ORDERS, OR FOR THE GREATER GOOD. THAT SAID, I THINK THAT WE SHOULD MOVE THE ACORN FAMILY TO A SAFE PLACE, AND...
NO. DISPATCH EXTRA GUARDS FOR MY FAMILY AND PARENTS, BUT MY PLACE IS HERE--
BUT SIRE...
--AND YOU'RE CRAZY IF YOU THINK SALLY WILL BE CONTENT TO SIT AND HIDE.
I'M SURE GEOFFREY WILL EXPLAIN HIMSELF IN TIME.
YOU'VE PLAYED ME BEFORE, BUT I'M GIVING YOU THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT, ST. JOHN. YOU'D BETTER NOT USE THAT AGAINST ME.
YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO HAUL HIS STRIPED BUTT IN WHEN THE TIME COMES, YOUR KINGY-NESS.
I'M SURE YOU WILL.


"WE'LL BE READY FOR ANYTHING!"
THE BAND'S WAITING FOR YOU, ASH. MINA SAID TO TELL YOU SHE WAS RUNNING BEHIND.
THAT'S COOL, MRS. MONGOOSE. THANKS.
WOW. AND I THOUGHT IT LOOKED STORMY OUTSIDE.
CUTE. LISTEN, MANAGER-MAN. WE NEED TO TALK.
YEAH.
FINE. START TALKING.
IT'S THESE NEW TUNES YOU'RE HEAPING ON US, MAN. I DIDN'T SIGN ON TO SEND A MESSAGE. I JUST WANT TO PLAY SOME MUSIC AND HAVE SOME FUN.
YEAH.
I DON'T MIND PLAYING WITH A BIT OF AN EDGE, BUT I DON'T LIKE YOU FORCING ALL THIS HEAVY STUFF ON US.
YEAH.
TOO BAD...
...BECAUSE THE MESSAGES ARE ALL MINE!


ACTUALLY...
...I TOLD HER TO TONE IT DOWN A BIT.
GUYS, I KNOW THIS IS WAY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE USUALLY PLAY...
...BUT THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY NEED TO HEAR THIS. THIS ALBUM IS DRIVING OUR NEXT CONCERT. THERE NEEDS TO BE A CHANGE, AND I KNOW OUR MUSIC CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!
YEAH, BUT WHY DO WE HAVE TO DO IT? I LIKED PLAYING POP.
YEAH.
NICOLE USED HER NANITES TO MAKE ALL YOUR INSTRUMENTS, NOT TO MENTION THIS WHOLE HOUSE.
IF SHE LOST CONTROL AGAIN, THIS ENTIRE ROOM COULD EAT US.
EXACTLY.
NOW LET'S START WORKING, PEOPLE! THIS MUSIC IS ROUGH, AND NEEDS LOTS OF LOVE!


"I SEE. MUCH HAS TRANSPIRED IN MY ABSENCE...
CONCERT IN 3WEEKS
"ENERJAK, THE NEW CITY, THE IRON DOMINION...
"THEY'VE BEEN RUN RAGGED.
"THEY'LL NEVER SEE ME COMING, AND WHAT OF ROBOTNIK?!"
"AT THIS POINT, ANYTHING HE DOES ONLY HELPS US."


THIS WILL ALL PLAY DIRECTLY INTO YOUR HANDS. IF YOU FOLLOW MY LEAD, SIR.
YOUR MAGIC IS WEAK, BUT YOU ALWAYS DID EXCEL IN YOUR CRAFTINESS. I WILL DEFER TO YOU FOR NOW.
BE PATIENT, NEW MOBOTROPOLIS. YOUR RIGHTFUL KING IS ON HIS WAY!
THIS DOESN'T BODE WELL AT ALL! NAUGUS MAKES HIS FIRST SINISTER MOVE IN "CHANGING TEMPO" NEXT ISSUE!
UNTIL THEN, ENJOY "SONIC UNIVERSE," THE SONIC ARCHIVES, AND SONIC SELECTS!

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

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JAMAL PEPPERS
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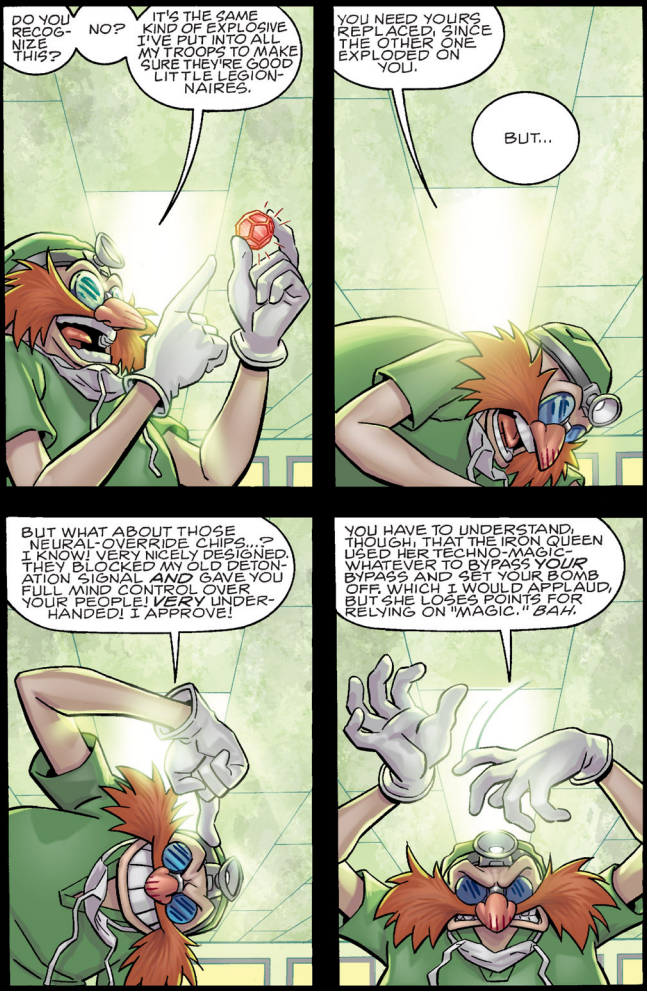
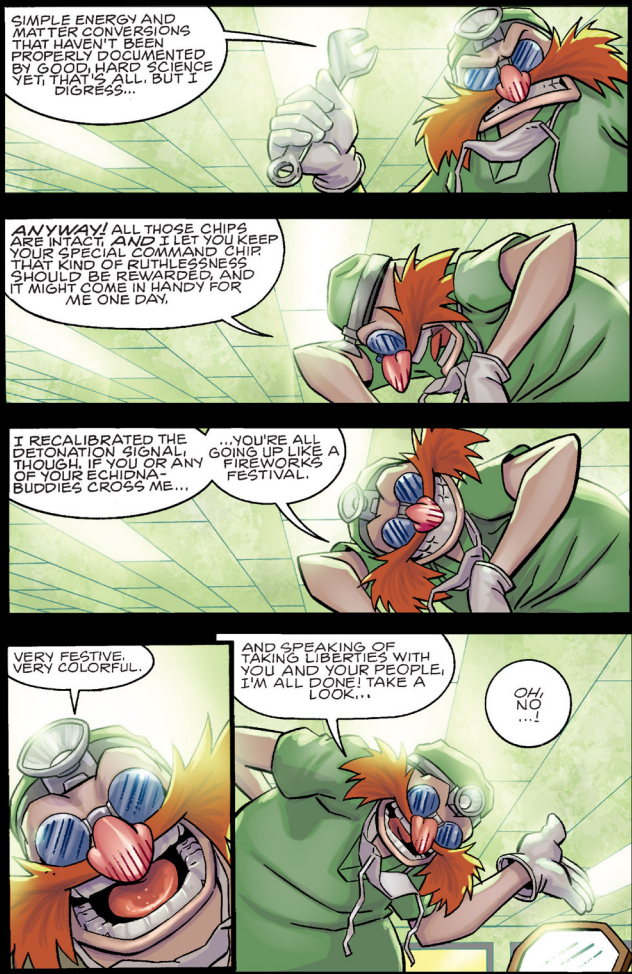
Letters:
JOHN WORKMAN

AH! YOU'RE AWAKE! GOOD! GOOD! I WANTED YOU TO BE WITH ME DURING THIS LAST LITTLE BIT!
WH... WHERE AM ...?
YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND IN THE EGGDOME. YOU TOOK A NASTY SPILL--SO TO SPEAK. BUT I SAVED YOU. REBUILT YOU. I HAVE THE TECHNOLOGY, AFTER ALL.


DO YOU RECOG-NIZE THIS?
NO?
IT'S THE SAME KIND OF EXPLOSIVE I'VE PUT INTO ALL MY TROOPS TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE GOOD LITTLE LEGION-NAIRES.
YOU NEED YOURS REPLACED, SINCE THE OTHER ONE EXPLODED ON YOU.
BUT...
BUT WHAT ABOUT THOSE NEURAL-OVERRIDE CHIPS...? I KNOW! VERY NICELY DESIGNED. THEY BLOCKED MY OLD DETONATION SIGNAL *AND* GAVE YOU FULL MIND CONTROL OVER YOUR PEOPLE! *VERY* UNDER-HANDED! I APPROVE!
YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, THOUGH, THAT THE IRON QUEEN USED HER TECHNO-MAGIC-WHATEVER TO BYPASS *YOUR* BYPASS AND SET YOUR BOMB OFF. WHICH I WOULD APPLAUD, BUT SHE LOSES POINTS FOR RELYING ON "MAGIC." *BAH.*


SIMPLE ENERGY AND MATTER CONVERSIONS THAT HAVEN'T BEEN PROPERLY DOCUMENTED BY GOOD, HARD SCIENCE YET, THAT'S ALL. BUT I DIGRESS...
ANYWAY! ALL THOSE CHIPS ARE INTACT, AND I LET YOU KEEP YOUR SPECIAL COMMAND CHIP. THAT KIND OF RUTHLESSNESS SHOULD BE REWARDED, AND IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY FOR ME ONE DAY.
I RECALIBRATED THE DETONATION SIGNAL, THOUGH. IF YOU OR ANY OF YOUR ECHIDNA-BUDDIES CROSS ME...
...YOU'RE ALL GOING UP LIKE A FIREWORKS FESTIVAL.
VERY FESTIVE. VERY COLORFUL.
AND SPEAKING OF TAKING LIBERTIES WITH YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE, I'M ALL DONE! TAKE A LOOK...
OH, NO ...!

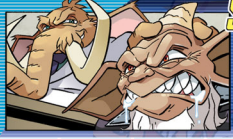
...LIEN-DA.
I'M... BEAUTIFUL. YOU FIXED EVERY-THING...
NOT ENTIRELY TRUE. YOU HAVE EVEN MORE INTERNAL CYBERNETICS THAN BEFORE, AND A FEW NEW LIMBS AND UP-GRADES, BUT WITH MY CRAFTSMANSHIP, NO-BODY WILL BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE.
...WHY ?!
HMM?
YOU BOMBED AND BUTCHERED MY PEOPLE TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION!
YOU'VE ROBBED OUR ORGANIZATION OF ANY DIGNITY! YOU COULD HAVE LEFT ME FOR DEAD, OR WORSE--MADE ME LIKE DIMITRI. WHY ARE YOU SHOWING ME ANY SHRED OF MERCY OR DECENCY?!
BECAUSE IT'S ALL PART OF THE GAME.

GAME? WHAT GAME?
WHY, THE SAME GAME I'VE BEEN PLAYING WITH SNIVELY FOR YEARS. THE SAME GAME I PLAY WITH ALL OF MY GRANDMASTERS. THINK OF IT AS A ROULETTE OF TRUST.

I KNOW EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU IS BIDING YOUR TIME. YOU'RE ALL WAITING FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT TO TURN ON ME. AND TAKE MY EMPIRE FOR YOURSELVES.

BUT UNTIL THEN, YOU ALL SERVE TO YOUR FULLEST. BECAUSE THE STRONGER YOU MAKE ME, THE MORE YOU'LL REAP IN THE END. IF YOU MANAGE TO TURN ON ME AND SURVIVE, THAT IS. SO WHAT DO YOU SAY, GRANDMASTER LIEN-DA?

I SAY, "LET THE GAMES BEGIN."
(NOT) THE END



SONIC-GRAMS FAN ART

FAN FUNNIES!

Zoe C.
Indiana

HEY, BOTOR, WHY DO YOU WATCH THOSE FIRE ANTS ALL DAY LONG?
THEY'RE SO FUN TO WATCH. IN THIS SUPER NON-ESCAPABLE ANT FARM!
HELP!
SEE? LOOK AT THAT ONE RIGHT THERE.

by Gregory & Josiah R. from California

Rebecca G.
Cambs, UK

Lenny M.
AB, CANADA

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OFF PANEL

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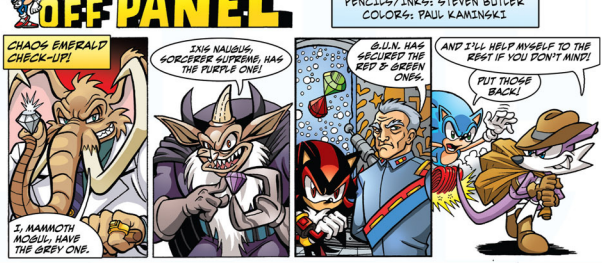
CHAOS EMERALD CHECK-UP!
I, MAMMOTH MOGUL, HAVE THE GREY ONE.
IXIS NAUGUS, SORCERER SUPREME, HAS THE PURPLE ONE!
G.U.N. HAS SECURED THE RED & GREEN ONES.
AND I'LL HELP MYSELF TO THE REST IF YOU DON'T MIND!
PUT THOSE BACK!

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